

MLB M's fall to split squad

By JOSE M. ROMERO
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Avisail Garcia homered among his three hits and drove in four runs, Jose Abreu added to his sizzling spring training with two more hits and a Chicago White Sox split squad beat the Seattle Mariners 12-4 on Wednesday.

Abreu raised his spring training-leading batting average to .518 (29 for 56).

Garcia and the White Sox are looking forward to getting the regular season started. "I'm ready, and thanks to God I'm healthy," Garcia said in Spanish.

"It was a fastball high and away," Garcia said of his home run off Mariners starter James Paxton. "I turned on it and it got out."

Melky Cabrera added a two-run double, Jeremy Farrell had four hits including a two-run home run and White Sox second baseman Carlos Sanchez, who will be on the opening-day roster after a very good spring at the plate, had four hits and two RBIs.

Gordon Beckham went 3 for 4 with two RBIs for the White Sox.

"It's good to see what we did with a split squad," Beckham said, "against a guy who's pretty good. It was good to get some knocks and do our thing. We'll definitely take a day like this, building momentum going into the season."

Chicago teed off on Paxton, who'll be in Seattle's rotation. Paxton allowed seven runs on 10 hits in 3 1-3 innings.

"Just one of those days," Paxton said. "It's going to feel good to get back to Seattle and get that real game-time adrenalin pumping."

Seth Smith drove in Seattle's first run with a two-out single in the third.

BIG WINNER
Tyler Olson, a rookie left-handed reliever from Spokane, Washington, made the Mariners' opening-day roster. Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon has Olson's name on a board in his office that lists the 25-man roster.

"Take a look at the board," McClendon said when asked about Olson. "Shows a lot of poise and the ability to get right-handers and left-handers out. Holds runners, works fast, throws strikes, fields his position. I said every year I'm looking for surprises, and he's a surprise."

Olson, who'd never pitched above Double-A, has not allowed an earned run and has 15 strikeouts in 10 games (12 2-3 innings) this spring.

Starting pitcher Taijuan Walker is also on that list after posting a 0.36 ERA (25 innings) in six starts, though it's not official where Walker will fall in the rotation order.

BLAZERS: Two wins from division title

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the Blazers (48-26) have already secured a place in the playoffs, now they're fighting for home-court advantage. Both teams, as well as San Antonio, are locked in a battle behind Golden State, Memphis and Houston for one of the top four spots. The Clippers have played two more games than the Blazers.

Even if Portland clinches the Northwest Division, home-court advantage in the playoffs goes to the teams with the best records. However, the division title is a tie-breaker if the two teams vying for the fourth spot finish with identical records.

NCAA Men's Tournament

Krzyzewski adapts to '1-and-done' world

Duke dependent upon strong freshmen class

By AARON BEARD
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — There was a time when Duke's Mike Krzyzewski led Final Four teams built around players who stayed for years to grow into tournament-tested veterans.

No longer, not in today's one-and-done world in which top players rarely stick around long.

The Blue Devils enter this week's Final Four relying on more freshman starters than John Calipari at Kentucky's NBA factory. They have three freshmen players facing stay-or-go NBA decisions after the season.

"What Coach K has done in my judgment, and I think Calipari has done the same thing, they've adapted to the landscape, and they are dealing with it in a positive way," said Jay Bilas, an ESPN analyst who played on Krzyzewski's first Final Four team in 1986.

"Now people want to use value judgments to it and say, 'This is not the way it's supposed to be' and 'This is antithetical to college.' Well, says who?"

Krzyzewski, the Hall of Famer in his 35th season at Duke and the winningest coach in men's Division I history with 1,016 wins, didn't have a player go pro early for nearly two decades until three left in 1999. Elton Brand was the first that year after his sophomore season, followed by fellow sophomore William Avery and then freshman Corey Maggette a few weeks later as Krzyzewski's first of five one-and-done players.

It took five years for Luol Deng to become the next freshman to leave, but Duke has now had three in four seasons: No. 1 overall pick Kyrie Irving in 2011, Austin Rivers in 2012 and Jabari Parker last year.



AP Photo/Bob Leverone, File
Duke freshman Jahliil Okafor (15) dunks against Notre Dame during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the semifinals of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament in Greensboro, N.C.

It's forced the 68-year-old Krzyzewski to adjust his approach compared to the days when Christian Laettner, Bobby Hurley and Grant Hill were four-year guys or even when Jay Williams, Carlos Boozer and Mike Dunleavy stayed for three.

"It actually starts before they get here," Krzyzewski said. "We try with the kids, especially if they commit early, to develop even a deeper relationship with them than we did 10 years ago. You had time (then). You want to know them even better because you're only going to have them for a shorter period of time."

Duke (33-4) is built around star freshman big man Jahliil Okafor, a possible No. 1 overall pick who chose Duke jointly with point guard Tyus Jones. Forward Justise Winslow is the other every-game freshman starter.

Their arrival comes a year after Parker arrived as an all-but-certain one-year player.

The reality is it isn't all that different — except maybe for the smaller numbers — than what Kentucky's Calipari often is criticized for doing with his "succeed and proceed" approach, a response to the NBA's

requirement for players to be at least one year out of high school before entering the draft.

As Bilas sums it up, Krzyzewski "has been playing against these players, and if some of them want to come to Duke, why not take them?"

And considering college should help prepare someone for a job, there's nothing wrong with a player leaving school to start a lucrative career.

"I really get tired of this discussion of basically people — and they're not just fans, they're NCAA member administrators — their view is 'Our one-and-done is a great kid that had a wonderful opportunity he couldn't turn down, and your one-and-done is a threat to the integrity of this enterprise,'" Bilas said.

"You can't moralize about that. You take one, you're in the same boat. There's not one negative thing about a young person going to college for any amount of time. Not one negative thing."

To that point, Krzyzewski said the program's ability to develop players is "obvious" but his pitch includes that the university itself "has a chance to develop you, too."

Okafor said knowing Krzyzewski had "coached the best of the best" was key in his decision, though he and Winslow said getting to the NBA wasn't a big part of the recruiting conversations.

"He always knew that the NBA could be a part of my eventual path," Winslow said. "But all our discussions were about me becoming the best player I could at Duke, not really any conversation about the NBA."

Bilas was part of the recruiting class that got things rolling for Krzyzewski, Bilas, Stanford head coach Johnny Dawkins, Mark Alarie and David Henderson were the senior core of a 37-win team that lost to Louisville in the 1986 title game.

But in today's game, Bilas said, Dawkins would've probably gone to the NBA in a year or two and Alarie in maybe two years.

The only constant in the radically different equation is Krzyzewski.

LPGA Tour

Ko takes aim at record for consecutive rounds under par

Teenager looks to continue hot streak

By JOHN NICHOLSON
Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — The rough is a little longer at Mission Hills, giving Lydia Ko an added challenge in her bid to break Annika Sorenstam's record for consecutive rounds under par.

A year after Lexi Thompson blasted her way to victory in the LPGA Tour's first major of the season, the thick primary rough is about 3 inches at the event now called the ANA Inspiration.

"It definitely is playing a lot different than last year," Thompson said. "The rough is up, which, I mean, major championships should be."

Thompson is paired with the top-ranked Ko, the 17-year-old New Zealander who will try to match Sorenstam's 2004 record of 29 straight rounds under par Thursday. They will tee off

at 8 a.m. when the morning dew will make the tangled long grass more difficult.

"It will be more catchy," Ko said Wednesday.

Ko started the streak in the first round of her victory last year in the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship. Add in her win in the Ladies European Tour's New Zealand Women's Open, and her worldwide streak is 31 rounds.

"Obviously, because I'm so close, it will be at the back of my mind because there's been so much talk about it," Ko said. "I'm sure that thought is going to come up within those 18 holes, but I'm just going to try and have fun."

Ko also has 10 straight top-10 finishes and has made the cut in all 48 of her career LPGA Tour starts, the first 15 as an amateur.

"A lot of people ask me what the strong point is about her game," Michelle Wie said. "I think the strong point is that she really doesn't have a weak-

ness."

Ko has six LPGA Tour victories — winning the Women's Australian Open in February the week before her New Zealand victory — and 10 worldwide titles in professional events.

"I always say the most exciting thing about Lydia Ko is she's 17 going on 18," LPGA Tour Commissioner Mike Whan said. "And I've met a lot of 22-year-olds going on 40 because this job, this career, grows you up in a hurry."

Ko is winless in 12 starts in majors.

"That's really what she's missing at the moment," said Sorenstam, working the event as an analyst for Golf Channel. "At that young age, you would think she'd be missing a lot more."

Ko tied for 25th at Mission Hills in 2013 and tied for 29th last season, breaking par once in four rounds a year ago and four times in eight rounds overall. She expects the conditions to get more difficult as the

week progresses.

"I'm pretty sure it's going to dry up in the next couple days," Ko said. "It's definitely going to be different from today to tomorrow. I think the rough around the greens is one of the toughest parts, so I really need to position myself well and just be patient."

The greens were receptive Wednesday than 2011 winner Stacy Lewis would like.

"You're not having to land balls short and kind of let them roll up," Lewis said. "There's a little less, I'd say, thinking involved. I hope it firms up because I would much rather see it playing a little bit harder than it is right now. ... When they're firm and fast, that's when this golf course plays the hardest."

Already the youngest LPGA Tour winner, Ko is trying to become the youngest major champion. Morgan Pressel set the record in 2007 at Mission Hills at 18 years, 10 months, 9 days. As an amateur, Ko won the

2012 Canadian Women's Open at 15 years, 4 months, 2 days, and successfully defended her title in 2013.

The third-ranked Lewis matched Ko and third-ranked Inbee Park with three victories last year. Lewis tied for 15th last week at Carlsbad after tying for second in Thailand and finishing third in Singapore and second in Phoenix. She has 11 career victories.

"I've been building on this tournament really since February," Lewis said. "It's kind of been in the back of my mind. We've kind of been progressing with my golf swing and just working on little things every single week and working on my golf swing. I've still played some pretty good golf leading up to it. I like where my game is at."

All Nippon Airways is in its first year as the title sponsor after Kraft Nabisco's ended its 33-year run last season. The tournament name is based on ANA's "Inspiration of Japan" slogan.

CLASH: Kelly will play volleyball at CBC, others undecided

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right angle triple to give the Oregon team a 66-59 lead with four minutes remaining.

"I haven't touched a ball since the state tournament," said the 5-foot-11 hot shooting forward. "But, I was in my comfort zone, it was nice."

Headings and the Oregon team went ice cold for the remainder, going scoreless for the last four minutes. Wilson and McKeown would combine to score the game's final 11 points to lead the northern invaders to victory.

"It took a little bit of time getting used to each other," said Wilson. "Once we starting finding our shooters we were able to get it."

McKeown led Team Washington with 21 points.

The affiliation with the northern state will be short lived for now for Wilson, she said. She expects to re-join the Oregon All-Stars for tonight's contest versus the



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Kelly Wilson, of Heppner, drives to the basket Wednesday at Blue Mountain Community College during the Clash at the Border All-Star Showcase.

Idaho All-Stars which will tip at 6 p.m. at BMCC.

However, Wilson will be continuing here athletic career above the state line. Following graduation from Heppner this spring, Wilson will move north to attend Colum-

bia Basin College in Pasco, Washington as a member of the school's volleyball team.

Donning the Mustang basketball jersey for the final two times this week caught her by surprise. Following the team's final game, a loss to Weston-McEwen at the CBC district tournament, Wilson assumed her basketball playing days were over.

"I thought I was done," she said. "I gave away my uniform, and then I got told I was going to be put it on again. It was pretty special."

Headings and Bodmer each plan to play collegiate basketball. Neither has decided upon a school yet.

Headings has narrowed her selections down to Corban, George Fox, Northwest University and Northwest Christian. She's in the midst of visiting all four schools.

Bodmer is considering Walla Walla Community College, Mt. Hood Community College and the hometown Blue Mountain Community College.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney
Hermiston's Tavin Headings prepares to shoot Wednesday during the Clash at the Border All-Star Showcase as Kelly Wilson, of Heppner, defends.